

Metropolitan
King County Council
Police Oversight

Councilmember
Julia Patterson



Metropolitan King County Council
District 5
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104-3272

Julia Patterson



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Making Us Proud – *Examples of Deputy Dedication*

Deputy Robert Smith is a Reserve Deputy in the King County Sheriff’s Office. This means he is a part-time volunteer (in addition to his full time job at Boeing). Nonetheless, he personally recovered 254 stolen cars in 2005!



The recovery of the vehicles has helped King County Sheriff’s detectives solve many other related burglary, larceny and identity theft cases. As a leading expert on locating and recovering stolen vehicles, Deputy Smith also teaches the skills he has developed over the years to regional law enforcement agencies, and helps train other deputies.

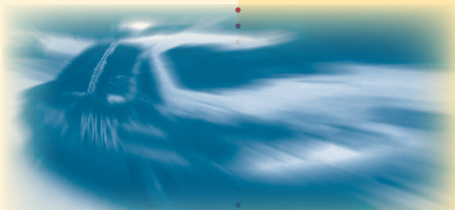
Deputy Smith deserves our appreciation for his dedication and hard work.

Deputy Steven C. Black conducted a methodical search for a suspect vehicle in a hit and run. Two 15 year-old girls had been critically injured in SeaTac. Witnesses were unable to get a license number or provide much detail

about the car-- other than “older, dark colored sedan”.

Against overwhelming odds, Deputy Black found the suspect car in a driveway. He then developed probable cause to arrest a man hiding in the house. The suspect pled guilty to vehicular assault and felony hit and run.

Deputy Black deserves our appreciation for his diligence in bringing the hit and run driver to justice.



Room 1200
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA
98104-3272

Telephone:
(206) 296-1005

Fax:
(206) 296-1050

Toll-free:
(800) 325-6165

TTY/TDD:
(206) 296-1024

Dear Neighbor,

Ninety-nine percent of King County Sheriff’s deputies serve with honor and risk their lives to protect our community. Out of respect for these officers and to protect citizens, we need transparent and independent oversight of police misconduct allegations. King County’s current system lags behind other major police departments and does not provide transparency and accountability.

This is why Councilmember Bob Ferguson and I sponsored legislation to improve oversight of police misconduct. The legislation creates an independent office to monitor citizen complaints and police misconduct investigations. After nearly a year of public hearings and testimony, I’m pleased to report that our proposal was adopted unanimously by the King County Council. Inside, you will find more information about the new reforms.

These new reforms will help ensure your county government continues to operate with accountability and integrity. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me with any feedback about this or any other county matter.

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New Reforms Provide Transparent and Independent Civilian Oversight of Sheriff's Office

Old King County System:

- ✗ No independent oversight of police misconduct investigations
- ✗ No outside audits or reviews of internal investigations
- ✗ No formal citizen input in processes and procedures
- ✗ No alternative dispute resolution process
- ✗ No annual public reports



New Oversight Reforms Patterson/Ferguson Bill passed into law:



- ✓ Independent Office of Law Enforcement Oversight
 1. Investigates misconduct allegations
 2. Monitors and evaluates Sheriff's internal investigations
 3. Reports directly to the County Council and the public.
- ✓ Ongoing law enforcement audit process
- ✓ Citizen panel to provide continued input
- ✓ New officer-citizen mediation option

For more information, visit my website at www.metrokc.gov/council/members/patterson

“Ferguson and Patterson want to institute genuine civilian oversight for the Sheriff's Office. Accepting the need for outside, impartial review is long overdue.”

-Seattle PI, 1/15/06

“The specifics of the Ferguson-Patterson proposal appear to provide an excellent start toward both a change of philosophy and implementing it intelligently.”

-Seattle PI, 1/15/06

Sheriff's Blue Ribbon Panel

In September, a Sheriff's Blue Ribbon Panel presented a report and recommendations to the King County Council. Their recommendations helped shape the Patterson/Ferguson legislation.

The report acknowledged the positive efforts of the men and women of the Sheriff's Office, but also delivered a powerful confirmation that civilian oversight is needed. It is needed to increase transparency in the complaint process and to restore the public's



Councilmember Patterson & Sheriff Sue Rahr

trust that legitimate concerns will be thoroughly investigated.

The complete report and recommendations are available on-line at: www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/sheriff/blueribbon.

*King County Sheriff **Sue Rahr** deserves credit for proposing this candid outside review and opening up the department for scrutiny. Her leadership has been instrumental in helping to initiate changes that improve public trust and confidence.*

Julia Patterson is Working For Us